

Contact: Rob Stokes, County Manager
Telephone: (775) 738-5398
E-mail: rstokes@elkocountynv.net
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ELKO COUNTY RECEIVES NOTICE OF SECOND POSITIVE COVID-19 CASE

Elko County was notified late Thursday by the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the second positive case of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) in the county. This notification was received after report of the first positive COVID-19 case earlier in the day.

The patient is a male in his 40s with recent, extensive, international travel history who was tested on March 16, 2020 after having symptoms. He is self-isolating at home. At this time, Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health is actively investigating both cases and will provide information through the Elko County Health Officer, Dr. Bryce Putnam, when it becomes available.

If a patient's travel history dictates a notification to passengers that are not Elko County residents, this is determined and coordinated through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Dr. Putnam is reminding the public that flu and other respiratory illnesses are circulating in Elko County. It is understandable that people who are sick may want to be tested for COVID-19. However, not everyone who feels ill needs to be tested. Health care providers determine who should be tested based on an individual's specific symptoms and circumstances. People who have mild symptoms such as a cough or fever should stay home and away from other people.

Elko County is working with its health care and community partners to ensure there are strong public health measures in place to respond to COVID-19 in the community.

The public can help response by:

- Not going to the emergency room unless it is essential. Emergency departments need to be able to serve the most severe needs. If you need to go to the emergency room and you believe you have COVID-19, please call ahead to allow staff to prepare for your arrival. To call ahead, 775-738-5151.
- If you are experiencing symptoms such as fever, fatigue, cough, and aches, **call your health care provider** to identify the safest way to receive care. Let them know if you have traveled to an affected area within the last 14 days or have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19.
- Practice every day preventative actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses:
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others.
 - If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. This will help prevent spreading your illness.
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Serious respiratory illnesses are spread by cough, sneezing or unclean hands.

- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe. Remember to clean your cellphones.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people. However, don't be afraid to support your local restaurants by ordering food-to-go or using a delivery option.

There have been no positive COVID-19 cases reported in Humboldt, Lander, Eureka or White Pine counties.

Stay informed; for more information on COVID-19 visit www.elkocountynv.net and <https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov>.

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